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PAGE 01 GENEVA 11973 01 OF 02 041515Z ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - CONSENSUSES ON AGENDA

ITEMS 5, 6, 7, AND 8

REF: (A) GENEVA 11755, (B) GENEVA 11758, (C) GENEVA 11760, (D) GENEVA 11762

- 1. SUMMARY: AFTER SEVERAL DAYS' NEEDLESS DELAY CAUSED BY THE ELEVENTH-HOUR, FIFTY-NINTH-MINUTE DISTRIBUTION OF THIRTEEN DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS 5, 6, 7, AND 8, ECOSOC PLENARY ADOPTED ALL BY CONSENSUS, EXCEPT FOR L.46 (MIGRATORY LABOR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA) WHICH WAS MERELY SENT WITHOUT COMMENT TO THE GA FOR CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.
- 2. DISCUSSION IN ECOSOC PLENARY OF AGENDA ITEMS 5, 6, 7, AND 8 BEGAN MORNING OF JULY 28 WITH STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ZAMBIA, LESOTHO, SEYCHELLES, USSR, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, UNHCR, FINLAND, AND USYG'S COORDINATOR FOR SPECIAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (GOUNDREY). FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 11973 01 OF 02 041515Z

DISCUSSION RESUMED AUGUST 1, WITH STATEMENTS BY BOTSWANA, SUDAN (WHO INTRODUCED ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN GROUP THE 13 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON THESE AGENDA ITEMS THAT HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO DELEGATIONS ONLY A FEW HOURS EARLIER THAT MORNING), UK, FRG, OAU, USA, CANADA, NORWAY, IMF, INDIA, PRC, YUGOSLAVIA, POLAND, JAMAICA, PORTUGAL, AUSTRIA, JAPAN, AND UGANDA. (THESE RESOLUTIONS REPORTED IN PART

IN REFTELS. REMAINDER WILL BE DATAFAXED FROM NEW YORK.) UGANDA NOTED THAT CDP REPORT SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED STATES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7, IN LIST OF LEAST DEVELOPED OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. UGANDA SUPPORTS CRITERIA THE CDP APPLIED, BUT HOPES THE CDP WILL REEXAMINE THESE CRITERIA WHEN NEXT IT MEETS.

- 3. THIRTEEN DRAFT RESOLUTIONS MENTIONED PARA 2 WOULD HAVE BEEN PUT UP FOR POSSIBLE CONSENSUS APPROVAL AUGUST 1, BUT ON URGING OF US AND FRG DELS, CONSIDERATION OF ALL BUT L.45 (HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, AGENDA ITEM 6) WAS POSTPONED TO FOLLOWING DAY. L.45 WAS APPROVED BY CONSENSUS AFTER BOTH SUDANESE AND ETHIOPIAN REPS VOICED THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE TEXT.
- 4. PLENARY MEETING OF AUGUST 2 ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS, IN RAPID-FIRE SUCCESSION TEN OF THE REMAINING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS: L.34, 37, 47, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, AND 44. US DEL VOICED RESERVATIONS ON L.34 AS INSTRUCTED IN STATE 194455, PARA 1. GUINEA-BISSAU REP URGED ECOSOC IN FUTURE TO REVIEW CRITICALLY THE CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN THE LIST OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, SINCE THE PRESENT CRITERIA ARE BOTH OUT-OF-DATE AND UNJUST.
- 5. PLENARY THEN TURNED TO DRAFT RESOLUTION L.35 (ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE). FRG PROPOSED CHANGES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 11973 01 OF 02 041515Z

OPERATIVE PARA 8 WHICH TUNISIA REJECTED ON BEHALF OF COSPONSORS. (FYI: TUNISIAN REJECTION WAS UNEXPECTED SNAFU. FRG DEL HAD EARLIER BEEN INFORMED BY SECRETARIAT THAT AFRICAN GROUP HAD AGREED TO PROPOSED CHANGES. UNFORTUNATELY, SUDAN, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COSPONSORS, HAD NEGLECTED TO INFORM OTHER AFRICAN DELS OF ACCEPTED CHANGE. WHEN FRG MADE THE PROPOSAL IN PLENARY, SUDANESE REPRESENTATIVE WAS ABSENT AND TUNISIAN REP BELIEVED HE WAS SAVING THE DAY FOR THE AFRICAN GROUP WHEN HE REJECTED PROPOSAL ON BEHALF OF COSPONSORS. LATER, AFRICANS WERE UNWILLING TO RETURN TO POSITION AGREED TO BY SUDAN WITHOUT SOME FACE-SAVING MEASURE. THIS LEFT FRG DEL ANGRY WITH AFRICANS AND WITH GOUNDREY, WHO HAD ASSURED THEM THE AMENDMENT WOULD BE UNOPPOSED. US WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS CHASE. END FYI)

6. AUGUST 3 PLENARY RETURNED TO L.35 AND ACCEPTED CHANGES PROPOSED BY FRG. OPERATIVE PARA 8 OF L.35 NOW READS "INVITES ALL STATES FOR THE BALANCE OF THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT DECADE TO CONSIDER GRANTING MOZAMBIQUE, IN VIEW OF ITS DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE SAME TREATMENT AS IS ENJOYED BY THE LEAST DEVELOPED AMONG

THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;". HOWEVER, PRICE OF ACCEPTING THIS CHANGE WAS A CHANGE IN OPERATIVE PARA 9, WHICH NOW READS "REQUESTS THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO GRANT SPECIAL ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE IN CARRYING OUT ITS PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITHOUT INTERRUPTION...". US DEL MADE STATEMENT CONTAINING RESERVATIONS PER INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT. L.35 WAS THEN ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

7. FINALLY, PLENARY TURNED TO L.46 (MIGRATORY LABOR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA). FRG ON BEHALF OF EC-9 HAD BEEN TRYING TO AVOID ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION. (FYI: FRG REP WAS STRONGLY UPSET THAT US DEL INTENDED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 GENEVA 11973 01 OF 02 041515Z

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 11973 02 OF 02 041517Z ACTION IO-14

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PARTICIPATE IN ANY POSSIBLE CONSENSUS APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. END FYI) AFRICAN GROUP ACCEPTED COMPROMISE SOLUTION OF SENDING THE ITEM TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITHOUT COMMENT FOR CONSIDERATION. THIS PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS.

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